

Claims

1. An antigenic composition suitable for freeze-drying, spray-drying, spray freezing-drying or vacuum drying comprising an antigen within an aqueous medium, a carbohydrate, and optionally a preservative, wherein the carbohydrate is in the form of a derivative which exhibit acidic moieties.
2. An antigenic composition as claimed in 1, wherein the carbohydrate is in the form of its carboxylic acid derivative.
3. An antigenic composition as claimed in 2, wherein the carboxylic derivative is selected from the list consisting of lactobionic acid, gluconic acid, glucuronic acid, galacturonic acid or galactaric acid.
4. An antigenic composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the aqueous medium contains a NaCl concentration of at least 30 mM.
5. An antigenic composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 which is in spray-dried, vacuum-dried or freeze-dried form.
6. An antigenic composition as claimed in claim 5 which is in reconstituted form.
7. An antigenic composition as claimed in any one of claims 6, wherein the reconstituted composition comprises an adjuvant.
8. An antigenic composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the adjuvant is selected from : oil-in-water emulsion, 3D-MPL, CpG, QS21 or a mixture of two or more thereof.
9. An antigenic composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the antigen or antigen composition is derived from the group comprising: Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Varicella Zoster virus, Herpes Simplex Virus type 1, Herpes Simplex virus type 2, Human cytomegalovirus, Dengue virus, Hepatitis A, B, C or E, Respiratory Syncytial virus, human papilloma virus, Influenza virus, Hib, Meningitis virus, Salmonella, Neisseria, Borrelia, Chlamydia, Bordetella, Plasmodium or Toxoplasma, stanworth decapeptide; or Tumour associated antigens (TMA), MAGE, BAGE, GAGE, MUC-1, Her-2 neu, LnRH, CEA, PSA, KSA, or PRAME, Cripto, HASH2, prostase, prostein.
10. A process for the preparation of an antigenic composition according to claims 1 to 4, comprising mixing the ingredients of the composition and subjecting the mixture to a lyophilisation, vacuum drying or spray drying procedure.

11. A process for the preparation of an antigenic composition according to claim 4, comprising mixing the ingredients of the composition and either freezing them and drying the frozen mixture, or spraying them.